(c) whether Government have raised the issue of ethnic violence in Nepal against people of Indian origin;

(d) if so, the response of that Government;

(e) whether Government have also taken cognizance of the statements by the leadership of Maoist groups in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have noted the recent incidents in the Terai region of Nepal which have also resulted in some persons crossing over into India temporarily.

(c) to (f) Yes. In response, the Government of Nepal has stated that they are committed to addressing all genuine grievances, and to ensuring the safety and security of all Indians in Nepal. Government have welcomed the address by Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. G.P. Koirala to the Nepalese nation on February 7, 2007 addressing the demands of the Madheshi population of the country and have noted that the address reflected the consensus among eight political parties, including the CPN (Maoist), of Nepal.

Pakistani's proposals on resolution of Kashmir problem

1846. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from President of Pakistan, seeking resolution of the so-called "Kashmir Problem" and, subsequently, affirmed to the media to be opened to "new ideas" to resolve the "Kashmir issue";

(b) if so, the details of the "Kashmir Problem" perceived, if any, by the Pakistani President in his proposal and/or that of the "Kashmir issue" as hinted to the media;

(c) whether it is a fact that discussions in covert manner are being conducted at official levels between the two countries;

(d) if so, the objective behind it; and

(e) the road-map to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In an interview to an Indian news channel in December 2006, President Musharraf made certain proposals on Jammu and Kashmir, These included identification of the area to which these proposals would apply, making the Line of Control irrelevant, demilitarisation, self governance and joint management.

(c) to (e) The issue of J&K is being discussed between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. During the last round of the Foreign Secretary talks, in January 2006, the Foreign Secretaries discussed various proposals including the above concepts During the meeting between Pakistan President Musharraf and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New York on 24 September 2004 it was agreed that possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue should be explored in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner.

Amount UN owes to India

1847. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay on UN's part in clearing $ 180.55 million dues.to India could adversely affect the country's capacity to participate in future peace-keeping operations as well as to compensate for troops-cost, contingent owned equipment lease and other specific services;

(b) if so, the reasons for UN's financial crunch and consequential non-payment to India; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this regard, indicating the amount that UN owes to other member countries in comparison to India till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India continues to be one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations notwithstanding delays in reimbursement of dues by the UN. The delay in making payments to India and other troop contributing countries is mainly due to some member